

October 2021

To my Sisters and Brothers at SS Peter and John Church;

So many thoughts to sift through as October begins and we are still in the midst of a pandemic. It is hard for me to believe that my official starting date was Oct. 1 of last year. What a crazy year, and, at the same time, a joyous time to thank God for being with you good people for a year.

This letter will be one of Thanksgiving!

I give thanks to God for Kathlyn Schofield for being such a great leader and steward of this Church before my arrival. She left a healthy and thriving congregation for me to walk into. Healthy in two senses of the word.

First, spiritually, a Church family that loves and prays and takes care of each other. And takes care of others as the Soup Kitchen serves about 150 meals, 4 days a week. (Thanks to David Ward and the volunteers!)

Secondly, physically – thanks to Mother Kathlyn and the Wardens and Vestry and generous donors. The Church was transformed by many ways, starting with the painting of the interior and the major roof repair. Now don't think that I don't know that buildings need constant maintenance, but some big issues have been addressed.

I give thanks to the Holy Spirit and to Canon Carrie Schofield-Broadbent for bringing me to you good people. Truthfully, I think she may have had this on her mind for some time before we met each other.

And finally, I give thanks to God for my sisters and brothers at Ss. Peter and John for welcoming me with such open and generous arms. You have made me feel welcome from day one. And most importantly, I feel like I am exactly where God wants me!

I'll close with a prayer of Thanksgiving from the Book of Common Prayer;

Accept, O Lord, our thanks and praise for all that you have done for us. We thank you for the splendor of the whole creation, for the beauty of this world, for the wonder of life, and for the mystery of love.

We thank you for the blessing of family and friends, and for the loving care which surrounds us on every side.

We thank you for setting us at tasks which demand our best efforts, and for leading us to accomplishments which satisfy and delight us.

We thank you also for those disappointments and failures that lead us to acknowledge our dependence on you alone.

Above all, we thank you for your Son Jesus Christ; for the truth of his Word and the example of his life; for his steadfast obedience, by which he overcame temptation; for his dying, through which he overcame

death; and for his rising to life again, in which we are raised to the life of your kingdom.

Grant us the gift of your Spirit, that we may know Christ and make him known; and through him, at all times and in all places, may give thanks to you in all things. *Amen.*

Grace and Peace,

John +

Father John ✠

I wanted to share an excerpt from Rob Bells book called “Love Wins” that offers me hope during this pandemic;

This invitation to trust asks for nothing more than this moment, and yet it is infinitely urgent. Jesus told a number of stories about this urgency in which things did not turn out well for the people involved. One man buries the treasure he’s been entrusted with instead of doing something with it and as a result he’s “thrown outside into the darkness.” Five foolish wedding attendants are unprepared for the late arrival of the groom and they end up turned away from the wedding with the chilling words “Truly I tell you; I don’t know you.” Goats are sent “away” to a different place than the sheep, tenants of a vineyard have it taken from them, and weeds that grew alongside wheat are eventually harvested and “tied in bundles to be burned.”

These are strong, shocking images of judgment and separation in which people miss out on rewards and celebrations and opportunities. Jesus tells these stories to wake us up to the timeless truth that history moves forward, not backward or sideways. Time does not repeat itself. Neither does life. While we continually find grace waiting to pick us up off the ground after we have fallen, there are realities to our choices. While we may get other opportunities, we won’t get the one right in front of us again. That specific moment will pass and we will not see it again. It comes, it’s here, it goes, and then it’s gone. Jesus reminds us in a number of ways that it is vitally important we take our choices here and now as seriously as we possibly can because they matter more than we can begin to imagine.

Whatever you’ve been told about the end—the end of your life, the end of time, the end of the world—Jesus passionately urges us to live like the end is here, now, today.

Love is what God is, love is why Jesus came, and love is why he continues to come, year after year to person after person. Love is why I’ve written this book, and love is what I want to leave you with. May you experience this vast, expansive, infinite, indestructible love that has been yours all along. May you discover that this love is as wide as the sky and as small as the cracks in your heart no one else knows about. And may you know, deep in your bones, that loves wins.

Bell, Rob. *Love Wins* (pp. 220-222). HarperOne. Kindle Edition.

ON-LINE WORSHIP

Here is the Zoom information for the Sunday on-line worship service @ 9:00 am.

Sundays - 9am Worship Service

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/97774056978?pwd=ZytJSVZjWmt3MUdSMkl3U1JaaGNLZz09>

Meeting ID: 982 7706 2680

Passcode: 435902

Dial by your location

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

Other Zoom Worship Schedule and Numbers

Tuesdays – 10am Bible Study

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/94333886777?pwd=WnNKSncyQkkzS1g0Yjc3ZGlVbk1PQT09>

Meeting ID: 943 3388 6777

Passcode: 577455

Dial by your location

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

Wednesdays – 12pm Worship Service

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/95528786615?pwd=Z01DVGdvcG5XeVBIUVRMKzFFVVBjZz09>

Meeting ID: 955 2878 6615

Passcode: 634665

Dial by your location

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

Thursdays – 10am Coffee and Conversation

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/97366952412?pwd=WUtQVFMvWlFKWmRBT1UyTHQ2Rm5Rdz09>

Meeting ID: 973 6695 2412

Passcode: 120228

Dial by your location

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

Monday – Tuesday – Wednesday – Thursday – Friday

MORNING PRAYER – RITE II

Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/john.rohde.16/>

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/92662278952>

Meeting ID: 926 6227 8952

Dial by your location

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 926 6227 8952

Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/u/ac4XCk34Dn>

Vestry Voice

The September Vestry meeting began with an opening devotional. The August minutes and financials were approved.

David Ward is stepping away from the day-to-day operations to concentrate on the administrative side – grants, scheduling, etc. Fred Westphal will be handling more of the day-to-day operations. Another cook is needed for Monday and Tuesday. Denise Whalen may know someone who was with the Hunger Task Force who might be interested.

The furnace work is completed and was paid for by donations. The sink bracket for the new faucet is made and will be installed shortly. The motion lights outside are not working. An electrician will be called to look at them. Discussion is on-going about what to do about preventing people from going downstairs.

As of Monday, September 13th, there will be a lock on the gate going into the parking lot at the side of the parish hall and a lock on the gate at the entrance to the church to prevent people from using this as a walk-through during school hours. Chuck Hausman stated they had done some work down in the classrooms – replacing ceiling tiles.

Willam Abdallah stated he is waiting for proofs from the engraver for the plaque for John McLane. He also stated that he feels Father Ayers should be invited to the unveiling ceremony as he worked closely with John McLane.

Live Streaming of worship services was discussed again. Joy O'Donnell stated that she and Cailin O'Donnell would be willing to record the service or live stream to Facebook. There are two issues: sound in the church and sound for the internet. We would need someone to come in and give us an idea on how many cameras we would need and where to put them, and also speakers.

Father John was at a meeting with the bishop and our church and our Morning Prayer services were named and praised.

Joy O'Donnell has been accepted into the Lay Preachers program.

The meeting closed with compline. Next Vestry meeting October 13, 2021.

Fundraising

We are looking for new ideas for fundraisers. If you have an idea, please speak to a vestry member or Father John. We are continuing to accept sneakers for our latest fundraiser.

Volunteers Needed

Since the Soup Kitchen has gone to 4 days a week, they are in need of volunteers. The Soup Kitchen now operates Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Saturday serving from 11:30 am to 12:30 pm. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact the church office at 315-252-5721.

Clothes Closet



The Clothes Closet will be open every Tuesday from 10:00 am to 11:30 am. If you know anyone who is in need of clothes, please let them know about our hours. Masks are required and only 1 person at a time will be admitted.

Thank You

A big thank you to Rev. John Rohde and Friends for their offering of music to the community. Everyone had a great time and the music was excellent. We look forward to hearing more from them in the future.



"If you're ever headed the wrong way in life, remember the road to Heaven allows U-turns."

The Way Forward Speaker Series: The Way Forward is Not the Way Back with Tamara Plummer

October 7, 6:30 pm–7:30 pm



THE
WAY FORWARD
SPEAKER SERIES

The Way Forward Is Not the Way Back

Tamara Plummer

Episcopal Relief & Development

October 7, 6:30 p.m.

Join Tamara Plummer of Episcopal Relief & Development to learn about the emotional life cycle of a disaster and lessons for the church today.

Thursday, October 7th

6:30-7:30 p.m.

Register to join on

Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcpdemgrDsqEtz65lTXpSOGTtJxaeLvzUr>

In this workshop we will talk about the Emotional Life Cycle of the disaster. Returning to a new normal requires technical planning and spiritual/pastoral care. We will spend a bit of time practicing the kinds of conversations that you can lead in your own congregational context as you plan the new normal, the new way forward in conversation with God.

Biography: Tamara Plummer is a Program Officer in the US Disaster Program at Episcopal Relief & Development where her portfolio includes short- and long-term recovery programs, disaster preparedness training and the Episcopal Asset Map. Plummer holds degrees in practical theology, higher education and music. For fun she watches terrible TV, plays bassoon and makes a podcast: [Pursuing Call](#).